

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-21 remain in the application. Claims 4, 16, and 17 have been amended. Claims 1-3, 6, and 18-21 have been withdrawn.

In item 3 on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 4-5 and 7-17 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Schmitt (US Pat. No. 4,003,276) in view of Myover (US Pat. No. 1,574,633) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references. However, the language of claims 4, 16, and 17 has been amended to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 4, 16, and 17 call for, inter alia:

elements forming a suction zone;

deflection elements movable parallel to an axis of rotation of the slitting devices for deflecting said elements, said deflection elements being coupled to the slitting devices. (Emphasis added.)

According to claims 4, 16, and 17 of the instant application, the deflection elements (13) are capable of deflecting other elements (17) which form a suction zone (26).

The Examiner has referred to the brushes 62 shown in Schmitt as deflection elements. However, those brushes 62 are not deflection elements deflecting other elements which form a suction zone. The dust collector 10 is not in contact with the brushes 62. The feature of deflecting elements is also not disclosed in Myover.

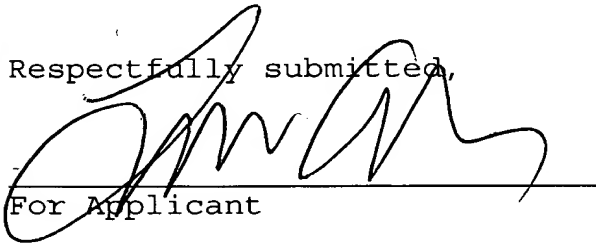
It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 4, 16, and 17. Claims 4, 16, and 17 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since claims 5 and 7-~~15~~ are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 4-5 and 7-17 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant

LAURENCE A. GREENBERG  
REG. NO. 29,308

YHC:cgm

August 6, 2003

Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.  
Post Office Box 2480  
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480  
Tel: (954) 925-1100  
Fax: (954) 925-1101